

MAT-8191US

Remarks/Arguments:

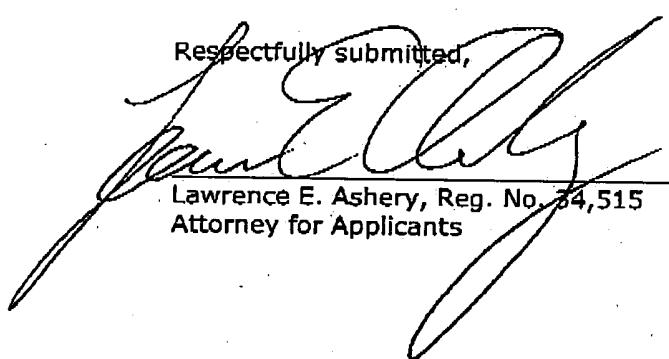
Applicants acknowledge with thanks the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Miller during the personal interview of May 6, 2004.

During the course of the interview, the Examiner took the position that the rejection of claim 1 will be maintained. The Examiner determined, however, that the features of claim 9 are patentable over the art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants' representative has clarified claim 9 and inserted the language of claim 9 into the pending independent claims. In addition, claim 9 has now been cancelled. Accordingly, all pending independent claims are now allowable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney for Applicants

LEA:ds

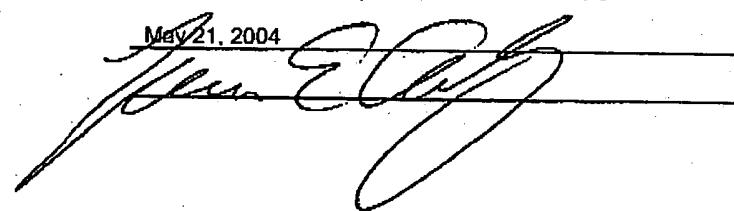
Dated: May 21, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (703-872-9306) on the date shown below.

May 21, 2004



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